

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An information transmission apparatus, comprising:

reception means for receiving first taste information that represents ~~[[the]]~~ a taste of a user from a terminal apparatus of the user;

storage means for storing ~~[[the]]~~ a plurality of taste information that represent ~~respectively the~~ respective tastes of a plurality of other users and attribute information corresponding to the plurality of other users;

search means for searching for second taste information having a resemblance to the first taste information from the plurality of taste information stored in the storage means;

retrieval means for retrieving at least the attribute information of the plurality of other users that correspond to the second taste information; and

transmission means for transmitting the retrieved attribute information ~~at least attribute information of the other users that correspond to the second taste information~~ to the terminal apparatus of the user.

2-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) An information transmission method, comprising:

a reception step of receiving first taste information that represents ~~[[the]]~~ a taste of a user from a terminal apparatus of the user;

a search step of searching for second taste information having a resemblance to the first taste information from a plurality of taste information of other users stored in a predetermined storage ~~means~~ unit; and

a transmission step of transmitting at least attribute information of the other users that corresponds to the second taste information to the terminal apparatus of the user.

12. (Currently Amended) The information transmission method according to claim 11, wherein

the transmission step transmits at least group information that represents groups that the other users belong to and that corresponds to the second taste information as the attribute information to the terminal apparatus of the user.

13. (Currently Amended) The information transmission method according to claim 11, wherein[[:]]

the reception step receives a part of the first taste information that represents the taste of the user from the terminal apparatus of the user as search key information;

the search step searches for taste information including the search key information from the plurality of taste information of the other users stored in the predetermined storage ~~means~~ unit as the second taste information having [[a]] the resemblance to the first taste information; and

the transmission step transmits at least group information that represents groups that the other users belong to and that corresponds to the second taste information as the attribute information to the terminal apparatus of the user.

14. (Currently Amended) The information transmission method according to claim 11, wherein

the transmission step transmits at least the second taste information and group information that represents groups that the other users belong to and that corresponds to the second taste information as the attribute information to the terminal apparatus of the user.

15. (Currently Amended) The information transmission method according to claim 11, wherein[[:]]

the reception step receives a part of the first taste information that represents the taste of the user from the terminal apparatus of the user as search key information;

the search step searches for taste information including the search key information from the plurality of taste information of the other users stored in the predetermined storage ~~means~~ unit as the second taste information having [[a]] the resemblance to the first taste information; and

the transmission step transmits at least the second taste information and group information that represents groups that the other users belong to and that corresponds to the second taste information as the attribute information to the terminal apparatus of the user.

16. (Currently Amended) An information reception method of a terminal apparatus, the information reception method comprising:

a transmission step of transmitting first taste information that represents [[the]] a taste of a user to a predetermined apparatus that stores the plurality of taste information that represent ~~respectively the~~ respective tastes of a plurality of other users; and

a reception step of receiving attribute information of the plurality of other users that corresponds to the second taste information, the attribute information being information that the predetermined apparatus that has received the first taste information at least transmits

after searching for second taste information having a resemblance to the first taste information from the plurality of taste information stored therein.

17. (Currently Amended) The information reception method of a terminal apparatus according to claim 16, wherein

the reception step receives group information that represents groups that the plurality of other users belong to and that corresponds to the second taste information as the attribute information, the group information being information that the predetermined apparatus that has received the first taste information at least transmits after searching for the second taste information having [[a]] the resemblance to the first taste information from the plurality of taste information stored therein.

18. (Currently Amended) The information reception method of a terminal apparatus according to claim 16, wherein~~[[:]~~

the transmission step transmits a part of the first taste information that represents the taste of the user as search key information to the predetermined apparatus that stores the plurality of taste information that represent ~~respectively~~ the respective tastes of [[a]] the plurality of other users; and

the reception step receives group information that represents groups that the plurality of other users belong to and that corresponds to the second taste information as the attribute information, the group information being information that the predetermined apparatus that has received the search key information at least transmits after searching for taste information including the search key information from the plurality of taste information stored therein as the second taste information having [[a]] the resemblance to the first taste information.

19. (Currently Amended) The information reception method of a terminal apparatus according to claim 16, wherein

the reception step receives the second taste information and group information that represents groups that the plurality of other users belong to and that corresponds to the second taste information as the attribute information, the second taste information and the group information being information that the predetermined apparatus that has received the first taste information at least transmits after searching for the second taste information having [[a]] the resemblance to the first taste information from the plurality of taste information stored therein.

20. (Currently Amended) The information reception method of a terminal apparatus according to claim 16, wherein~~[[:]]~~

the transmission step transmits a part of the first taste information that represents the taste of the user as search key information to the predetermined apparatus that stores the plurality of taste information that represent ~~respectively~~ the respective tastes of [[a]] the plurality of other users; and

the reception step receives the second taste information and group information that represents groups that the plurality of other users belong to and that corresponds to the second taste information as the attribute information, the second taste information and the group information being information that the predetermined apparatus that has received the search key information at least transmits after searching for taste information including the search key information from the plurality of taste information stored therein as the second taste information having [[a]] the resemblance to the first taste information.

21. (New) An information transmission apparatus, comprising:

a reception unit configured to receive first taste information that represents a taste of a user from a terminal apparatus of the user;

a storage unit configured to store a plurality of taste information that represent respective tastes of a plurality of other users and attribute information corresponding to the plurality of other users;

a search unit configured to search for second taste information having a resemblance to the first taste information from the plurality of taste information stored in the storage unit;

a retrieval unit configured to retrieve at least the attribute information of the plurality of other users that correspond to the second taste information; and

a transmission unit configured to transmit the retrieved attribute information of the plurality of other users that correspond to the second taste information to the terminal apparatus of the user.

22. (New) The information transmission apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the transmission unit is configured to transmit at least group information that represents groups that the plurality of other users belong to and that corresponds to the second taste information as the attribute information to the terminal apparatus of the user.

23. (New) The information transmission apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the reception unit is configured to receive a part of the first taste information that represents the taste of the user from the terminal apparatus of the user as search key information;

the search unit is configured to search for taste information including the search key information from the plurality of taste information stored in the storage means as the second taste information having the resemblance to the first taste information; and

the transmission unit is configured to transmit at least group information that represents groups that the plurality of other users belong to and that corresponds to the second taste information as the attribute information to the terminal apparatus of the user.

24. (New) The information transmission apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the transmission unit is configured to transmit at least the second taste information and group information that represents groups that the plurality of other users belong to and that corresponds to the second taste information as the attribute information to the terminal apparatus of the user.

25. (New) The information transmission apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the reception unit is configured to receive a part of the first taste information that represents the taste of the user from the terminal apparatus of the user as search key information;

the search unit is configured to search for taste information including the search key information from the plurality of taste information stored in the storage means as the second taste information having the resemblance to the first taste information; and

the transmission unit is configured to transmit at least the second taste information and group information that represents groups that the plurality of other users belong to and that corresponds to the second taste information as the attribute information to the terminal apparatus of the user.

26. (New) A terminal apparatus, comprising:

a transmission unit configured to transmit first taste information that represents a taste of a user to a predetermined apparatus that stores a plurality of taste information that represent respective tastes of a plurality of other users; and

a reception unit configured to receive attribute information of the plurality of other users that correspond to the second taste information, the attribute information being information that the predetermined apparatus that has received the first taste information at least transmits after searching for second taste information having a resemblance to the first taste information from the plurality of taste information stored therein.

27. (New) The terminal apparatus according to claim 26, wherein

the reception unit is configured to receive group information that represents groups that the plurality of other users belong to and that corresponds to the second taste information as the attribute information, the group information being information that the predetermined apparatus that has received the first taste information at least transmits after searching for the second taste information having the resemblance to the first taste information from the plurality of taste information stored therein.

28. (New) The terminal apparatus according to claim 26, wherein

the transmission unit is configured to transmit a part of the first taste information that represents the taste of the user as search key information to the predetermined apparatus that stores the plurality of taste information that represent the respective tastes of the plurality of other users; and

the reception unit is configured to receive group information that represents groups that the plurality of other users belong to and that corresponds to the second taste information as the attribute information, the group information being information that the predetermined

apparatus that has received the search key information at least transmits after searching for taste information including the search key information from the plurality of taste information stored therein as the second taste information having the resemblance to the first taste information.

29. (New) The terminal apparatus according to claim 26, wherein
the reception unit is configured to receive the second taste information and group information that represents groups that the plurality of other users belong to and that corresponds to the second taste information as the attribute information, the second taste information and the group information being information that the predetermined apparatus that has received the first taste information at least transmits after searching for the second taste information having the resemblance to the first taste information from the plurality of taste information stored therein.

30. (New) The terminal apparatus according to claim 26, wherein
the transmission unit is configured to transmit a part of the first taste information that represents the taste of the user as search key information to the predetermined apparatus that stores the plurality of taste information that represent the respective tastes of the plurality of other users; and

the reception unit is configured to receive the second taste information and group information that represents groups that the plurality of other users belong to and that corresponds to the second taste information as the attribute information, the second taste information and the group information being information that the predetermined apparatus that has received the search key information at least transmits after searching for taste information including the search key information from the plurality of taste information

stored therein as the second taste information having the resemblance to the first taste information.

31. (New) A computer-readable storage medium having embedded therein instructions, which when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform a method, comprising:

receiving first taste information that represents a taste of a user from a terminal apparatus of the user;

storing a plurality of taste information that represent respective tastes of a plurality of other users and attribute information corresponding to the plurality of other users;

searching for second taste information having a resemblance to the first taste information from the plurality of taste information stored in the storing;

retrieving at least the attribute information of the plurality of other users that correspond to the second taste information; and

transmitting the retrieved attribute information to the terminal apparatus of the user.

32. (New) An information transmission apparatus, comprising:

reception means for receiving first taste information that represents a taste of a user from a terminal apparatus of the user;

storage means for storing a plurality of taste information that represent respective tastes of a plurality of other users and attribute information corresponding to the plurality of other users;

search means for searching for second taste information having a resemblance to the first taste information from the plurality of taste information stored in the storage means; and

transmission means for transmitting at least the attribute information of the plurality of other users that correspond to the second taste information to the terminal apparatus of the user when the reception means receives the first taste information.

33. (New) An information reception apparatus, comprising:

transmission means for transmitting first taste information that represents a taste of a user to a server;

reception means for receiving at least attribute information of a plurality of other users corresponding to second taste information, from the server; and

registration means for registering the received attribute information of the plurality of other users corresponding to the second taste information as said user's attribute information, wherein

the second taste information has a resemblance to the first taste information and is searched by the server from a plurality of taste information stored in the server.